



# City of Seattle

Michael McGinn, Mayor

## Department of Planning and Development

Diane M. Sugimura, Director

June 20, 2011

TO: Councilmember Sally Clark  
Chair, Committee on the Built Environment

FROM: Diane Sugimura

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan – Annual Amendment – Docket Setting

My staff has reviewed the suggestions submitted to the City Council as possible amendments to the City's Comprehensive Plan in this year's annual amendment cycle. We have comments for your consideration as the City Council reviews the submittals to determine which ones should receive further study.

Using the criteria the Council has adopted for identifying topics appropriate for the Comprehensive Plan, some of the submittals do not appear appropriate for inclusion in the Plan. These include:

#7 and 8 have both been reviewed and rejected by Council on more than one occasion, and therefore they do not comply with criterion 3.d. These should not be included in this year's docket.

# 10 would label as "planned" a one-block segment on the Urban Trails map. This scale of trail improvement is best addressed as a programmatic or budgetary decision and, consistent with criterion 1.e, is not appropriate for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan.

# 11 calls for the City to adjust citywide growth targets and neighborhood-level allocations of those targets on an annual basis. The citywide target is not decided solely by the City of Seattle. Under the Growth Management Act, citywide targets are made at the county level based on periodic population forecasts developed by the state Office of Financial Management. In King County the determination of targets for individual cities requires a decision by the Growth Management Planning Council, a body of elected officials representing all the jurisdictions in the county. In the 21 years since GMA was adopted, the Growth Management Planning Council has established targets only three times, the most recent in 2010. Annual adjustment of the citywide targets is beyond the City's authority. How the citywide target is distributed within the City is one of the issues DPD intends to address as part of the major Comp Plan review that we have just begun, and we strongly suggest that Council defer discussion of this issue to that process.

Finally, submittals 12, 13 and 14 would together remove approximately 30 acres of land from the City's designated Manufacturing/Industrial Centers and would redesignate this land for mixed-use development. While the submittals appear to meet the threshold criteria for continued consideration, the combined effect of removing this much land from industrial designation should be considered with caution, given the value that industrial uses provide the City and the importance that current policies place on maintaining industrial land for industrial uses.

If you have questions about our recommendations on this phase of the annual amendments, please contact Tom Hauger at 684-8380.